



# Scandinavian News

PUBLISHED BY THE SCANDINAVIAN CENTRE CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

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PHONE  
437-1379

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OCTOBER 85

## MANITOBA MUSEUM OF MAN & NATURE SCANDINAVIAN AND VIKING EXHIBITS

Co-ordinator: Dr. Lee Syms

The Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature has launched a multiple-exhibit programme on Scandinavians having five separate but inter-related phases. Each of these phases will include exhibit, public programming - i.e. films, lectures, etc. and educational development material. The combined programme is organized to increase public awareness of its richness of accomplishments in Scandinavian cultural developments, early and recent history, and current design developments.



### Five Phases

- A) The Vikings Exhibit: Vikings as Travellers, Colonists, Merchants & Artists
- B) Latter Day Sagas Exhibit: Scandinavian Immigration to Canada
- C) Swedish Design Exhibit: Designed for People
- D) Travelling Education Kits: Portable teaching kits for use in classrooms and community museums: (1) The Vikings (2) Recent Scandinavian Immigrants
- E) Scandinavian Crafts and Educational Material

The two exhibits on Vikings and Scandinavian immigrants are being planned for in-house presentation and a Western Canadian tour of communities having Scandinavian centres or considerable numbers of Scandinavian peoples, including being near the Expo '86 pavillions in Vancouver!

The exhibit material will be available for a variety of Scandinavian groups and communities, and those artifacts that are not on temporary loan to us will be available for Scandinavian centres throughout the decades that follow. The education kits and materials will be available to schools and community museums as long as there is a need and interest in them. This package will leave a permanent impression on Canadians of the outstanding contribution of Scandinavians.



### The Vikings Exhibit: Vikings as Travellers, Colonists, Merchants & Craftspeople

This exhibit presents a balanced overview of the traditional life and outstanding contributions of the Vikings or Norsemen. It will replace the largely erroneous and negative public image with insights into Viking technological and artistic accomplishments and their deep impact on the development of European history. North American evidence including the L'Anse aux Meadows Viking camp and finds from the high Arctic, will show the nature of Canadian settlements and trade. There will be original artifacts and replicas from various European and Canadian museums, graphics and two slide kits.

### Latter Day Sagas Exhibit: Scandinavian Immigrants to Canada

The settlement of Western Canada, including Northwestern Ontario and the northern states, by the five Scandinavian groups is portrayed in this exhibit. The struggle, traditional materials, trials and tribulations, and contributions to Canadian society include some of the topics to be covered. A rich assortment of original artifacts from museums and private collections, illustrations and graphics such as maps provide the visual insights.

### Swedish Design Exhibit: Designed for the People

The Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature, The Swedish Institute and several design associations are working together to develop and pre-

sent a large exhibit demonstrating the philosophy in current Swedish design with its emphasis upon good aesthetic and industrial quality, affordable to everyone. The involvement of a number of local Swedish businesses is anticipated. Local design awards such as the Premier's Award for Design Excellence and the Canada Excellence Awards, and contests will augment the items and graphics brought over from Sweden.

### Travelling Education Kits

Two kits, one on Vikings and one on Scandinavian immigrants, will be available for school teachers to use in the classroom and for educators in community museums. The kit will include high-quality replicas of Viking artifacts and non-perishable immigrant artifacts, educational posters and postcards, accurate and

well-illustrated reference books, slide kits, and teaching manuals. Teachers will be able to replace the largely erroneous materials on Vikings currently found in school reference materials with current, correct knowledge and will be able to portray the real impact of Scandinavian culture on Canadian society.

### Scandinavian Crafts and Educational Material

A wide selection of artifacts, games and educational materials relating to Vikings and immigrants will be assembled for sale. For the Viking Phase, there will be adult and children's books, scenic and educational posters, replicas of jewelry and swords, cardboard cutouts of Viking ships, helmets and the L'Anse aux Meadows settlement, games from the British Museum, postcards and other materials for personal interest and gifts. These materials will increase availability and awareness of symbols of Scandinavian identity.



### Public Programming

An important part of exhibits is the public programming which provides opportunities to bring in guest speakers and relevant films as well as to see the exhibits and for the publicity to heighten public awareness. These will include school interpretive programs, exhibit tours, lectures, films, music, panel discussions, local excursions and one international excursion.

### A) Vikings and Recent Immigrants

The introduction of these exhibits will be accomplished by films, public lectures, and public interpretation sessions. These will focus on elaborating on the exhibits and providing an opportunity for people to expand their knowledge and perceptions of Scandinavian roots.

Continued on page 3



SCANDINAVIAN NEWS

MANAGER

K. Holm-Pedersen  
Box 8122, Edmonton,  
Alberta T6H 4N9  
Phone 437-1379

EDITOR

Elieen Peterson  
3 Beaverbrook Crescent,  
St. Albert, Alberta  
T8N 2L3  
Phone 459-3706

CORRESPONDENTS

Eva H. Redekop  
6311 Thorncliffe Dr. N.W.  
Calgary, Alberta  
T2K 3A8

Danish Society DANIA

Lili Nielsen  
3903 - 111A Street  
Edmonton, Alberta  
Phone 435-5655

FINNISH SOCIETY  
Of Edmonton

Anne Sahuri  
16112 - 104 Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5P 0S4  
Phone 489-7515

ICELANDIC SOCIETY  
of Edmonton

Nina Campbell  
5612 - 142A Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5A 1J8  
Phone 476-3612

Sons of Norway SOLGLYT

Bob Burt  
Box 75,  
Devon, Alberta  
Phone 987-3727

Vasa Lodge Skandia

Kaye Kerr  
8620 - 172 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5T 0M1  
Phone 487-2411

Vasa Lodge BUFORD

Wanda Markstedt  
R.R. 3 Calmar, Alberta  
TOC 0V0

Vasa Lodge NORDSTJARNAN

A. Holmlund  
R.R.1 Wetaskiwin, Alberta

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Christine Ellingson  
1191 Alder Avenue  
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Aspelund Lodge,  
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Betty Wulff  
4121 - 36 Street  
Red Deer, Alberta  
T4N 0S7  
Phone 346-5952

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Edmonton, Alberta  
T5J 3G1 Ph. 426-1457

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Consul - Lars Fahlstrom  
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Edmonton, Alberta  
T5K 0J8 Ph. 482-2561

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TRADE OFFICES

Danish Trade Office  
Jan Yde Jensen  
203 1219 - 11th Avenue S.W.  
Calgary, Alberta  
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Swedish Trade Office  
Ake Buer  
760 Strathcona Dr. S.W.  
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T3H 1S1 Ph. 242-6353

SOLGLYT  
SPOTLIGHT

By Bob Burt

October 7th:  
October Executive meeting will be held at MacKay House at 7:30 p.m.

October 26:  
Leif Erikson Night held at Viking Club 112 Street off Jasper Ave.

November 23:  
Election of Officers (Ken Domier and Sev Berge Norse Railroaders). Bingo will also highlight the evening.

December 15:  
The S/N Christmas Party.

Bowling has already started and teams are being formed, many more teams are requested. See Al Letendre. Bowling at Windsor Bowling Alley Tuesday evenings.

Curling will commence October 1st. Those interested call Dale McBride if you are intending to participate.

Jan. or Feb.:  
Torske Klubben will sponsor a Casino in a two-day blitz. Date to be announced. Over 55 members asked to participate in helping with the games. Volunteer names to Al Letender or Don Stolie.

Congratulations from all members of the Sons of Norway Solglyt 143 Lodge on the marriage of Kaare Askildt to Coco Barnet-Askildt which took place Aug. 3rd at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church. A family reception was held at the Royal Viking.

Vacations to and from Norway:

\* Olga McBride and her mother Martha Venoasen visited relatives in Norway.

\* Odd Espeland and his wife toured Norway visiting relatives.

\* Ole Hovind was to attend a wedding in Norway, but illness intervened and relatives paid him a visit from Norway instead.

\* Mr & Mrs Halvdan Iverson, with their daughter & son-in-law Willy Nilsen (cousins) visited the Burts in August from Norway, to be present at the Johanson family reunion.

\* Harder Johansen from Northern Norway, uncle of Verner Steinbru, spent a month during July & Aug. visiting. While here he took in Heritage Days, and was among those missing on the grounds, but he came back.

\* Wally & Betty Broen have been very busy this summer; first a family re-union at the coast, then in mid Sept. a wedding to attend in California.

\* Many of our members enjoyed the visit here this summer of former Edmonton resident Ola Engen and his wife Grete, from Oslo, Norway. Ola, who lived in Edmonton from 1951 to 1963, noted the considerable change that has taken place in the Edmonton landscape during the 22 years that he has been away. Ola and Grete are owners and operators of Tellefsen & Engen, urmakere (watchmakers) in Oslo. While in Edmonton, they were guests of Kris and Bernice Nyhus and the Stan Johnsons.

\* Rose and Sev Berge got lots of practice "med a snakke norsk" this summer with a three-week visit from four of Sev's relatives from Molde and Oslo, Norway.

\* Ken & Selma Domier also received some Norwegian immersion with a three week visit with Selma's relatives in Tromso, Hallingdal and Gudbrandsdal areas.

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Please advise The Scandinavian News as soon as possible of any change of address. Cut out your name and address from the front page and paste it in the space below, or print your old address.

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As of March 1984

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702, 9923-103 Avenue,  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5K 2J3  
Telephone 425-8261

FLIGHT ORGANIZER

Vera Nielsen  
12424 - 141 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta,  
T5L 2G5  
Telephone 454-5438

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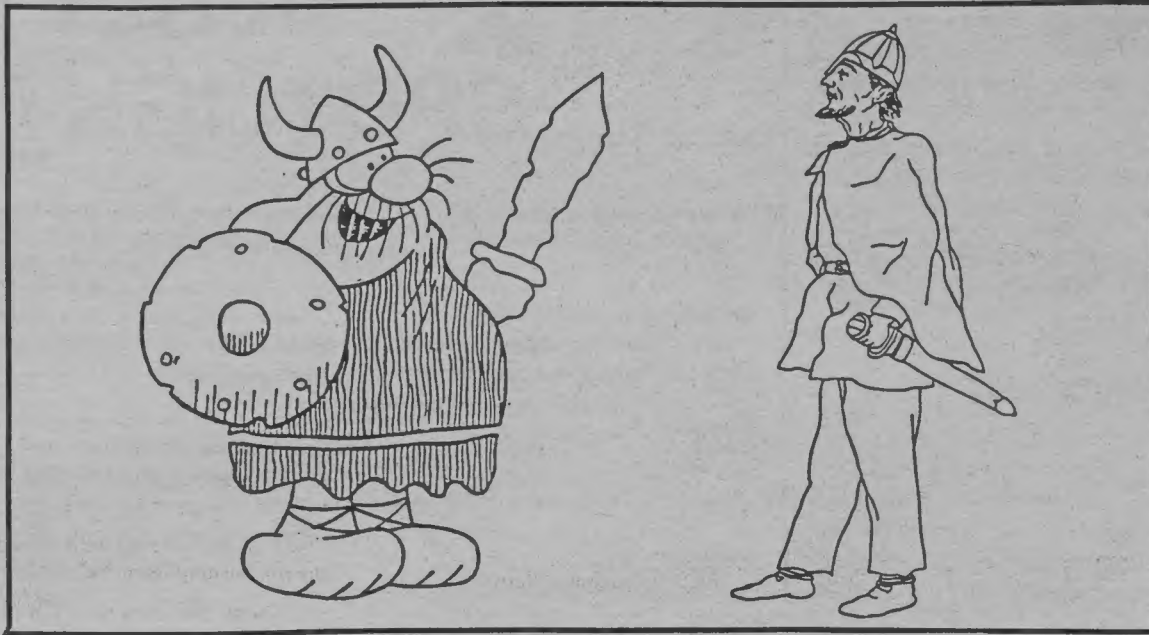


# MUSEUM

Continued from page 1

## B) Swedish Design

The exhibit will be accompanied by public lectures on Swedish contributions and design education, student design awards and exhibits plus local and national design awards evenings. There will be one-hour interpretive school programmes on topics such as "Sweden", "Swedish Settlers in Manitoba", and crafts workshops.



Stereotypes: the baffoon, Hagar the Horrible, or historic leaders and colonizers.

available upon request through the Extension Services of the Museum of Man and Nature. These will be available, free of charge, to school teachers who are incorporating the studies of Viking settlements or Scandinavian immigration into their Canadian History and Canadian Studies courses. These could be available indefinitely depending upon resources to maintain repairs and loss of materials through use. There have been requests already for presentations on Vikings at the elementary school level, grades 5-6.

The Swedish Design Exhibit is at the Museum of Man & Nature November - December 1985, after which it travels to one other North American centre, then to Australia and returns to Sweden.

## Scandinavian Programme:

### A Timetable

The various phases of the programme provide an intermittent and changing exposure to Scandinavian materials:

- a) Within the Museum of Man & Nature: Intermittently, August 1985 to November 1986.
- b) Scandinavian centres and small communities: January 1986 until funds or interest no longer available.
- c) School classrooms: January 1986, indefinitely, until such time as funds

are no longer available to maintain and refurbish materials.

The two smaller, portable exhibits will be available for display in-house, and we anticipate travelling them widely. They will be modest in size (800 and 1200 sq. ft.), portable, and filled with durable items so that their availability will not be severely restricted by security needs or environment and other conservation concerns. We have already received expressions of interest in having them at numerous places:

- 1 variety of Scandinavian centres such as Winnipeg, Regina and Calgary

- 2 exhibition centres such as Leaf Rapids and Red Deer, Alberta.

- 3 community museums such as Gimli, Morden and Elfros, Sask.

- 4 municipal buildings or schools in other communities across Western Canada

- 5 near the Expo '86 pavilions in Vancouver where they will be seen by vast numbers of visitors

The length of time that these exhibits are available will be determined by available travel grants and degree of interest by the various communities. When the travelling stage is completed,

the artifact replicas that have been purchased or made and the accompanying text and illustrations will be available for permanent or long-term display in various Scandinavian centres and communities.

In addition to the exhibits, the 2 education kits will be

Continued on page 4



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lemon

### On the Rocks

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Finlandia Vodka  
is at its best in  
this drink.



# MUSEUM

Continued from page 3

## The Vikings Exhibit

The Vikings have been the victims of "bad press". Histories of countries such as England and Ireland have tended to portray only one, limited negative aspect, the early raiding activities. This perspective has been repeated in history texts of English-speaking countries such as Canada and the United States. Horrendous movies produced by Hollywood and comic strips such as "Hagar the Horrible" have deeply imbedded the erroneous stereotype in the perspective of most North Americans, including many of Scandinavian background.

Archaeological work has produced an entirely different picture of Vikings as mariners, colonizers, merchants and craftspeople. The rapidly growing body of information is available in a variety of publications, most of which are published in Europe (eg. Magnus Magnusson's *The Vikings* or Graham Campbells' *The Viking*

World). These are not, however, widely distributed or readily available in North America. Most Scandinavian-Canadians and the public at large carry an erroneous and negative stereotype.



## Objectives

- 1 Replace the current erroneous but common "Hollywood" image of Vikings as horned bloodthirsty barbarians with a balanced image of Vikings as raiders, traders, skilled merchants, homesteaders, colonizers, and craftspeople, par excellence!
- 2 Present available evidence on Viking activities in North America, eg. temporary settlement at L'Anse aux Meadows, Newfoundland and items from Inuit camps in Canada's high Arctic islands such as Ellesmere Island.
- 3 Portray a variety of day-to-day activities with artifacts, illustrations, text and slide sets.



## Exhibit Themes

### 1. Vikings as Settlers and Traders

- a) Portrayal of typical household, farmstead and trading town, based upon archaeological excavations in Denmark, Norway, Iceland, Sweden, England and Ireland.
- b) Artifacts from excavations at Jorvik (York, England) and other European museums. Examples include wooden bowls, combs and non-perishable items such as molds.
- c) Replicas of artifacts from Parks Canada, National Museum of Man, Arctic Institute of North America, and a number of European museums. All replicas are of high quality. Replicas are an important and necessary part of the exhibit so that it can be displayed in a variety of smaller centres where standards of security and environmental control cannot be maintained for perishable and rare, irreplaceable artifacts. Examples will include weather vanes, portable scales, ceramic jugs, and artifacts made from non-local materials.
- d) Maps and scenic photos of fjords and areas of settlements.

### 2. Vikings as Shipbuilders and Sailors

- a) 24-inch wooden replica including detailed rigging.
- b) Illustration and text on types of ships, changes in-

troduced by the Vikings, and sophistication of the development.

- c) Accomplishment of the ships including sea voyages, inland river flotillas, and movement of people and goods.

### 3. North American Settlements

- a) Artifact replicas from L'Anse aux Meadows and the Inuit sites in the high Arctic. Examples include boat rivets, spindle whorls, chain mail, brass bowl, and a wooden carving of European figure found in an Inuit camp.
- b) Photographs, texts and illustration of excavations, artifacts and settlement reconstructions at L'Anse aux Meadows.

### 4. Vikings as Superb Craftsmen

- a) A mixture of original artifacts and replicas to show the quality of workmanship in metal, wood, stone, bone and glass.
- b) Annotated slide show with automatic carousel and built-in screen to portray ornate jewelry, weaponry and other works of art.
- c) Text and illustrations showing various manufacturing techniques.

### 5. Vikings: Household and Farmstead

- a) Graphics of the everyday activities.
- b) Artifacts and replicas of day-to-day activities.
- c) Storyline on foods and subsistence.



## Exhibit Format

Artifacts, graphics and texts will be mounted on a series of panels. For travelling, these panels will be mounted on free-standing units that are hinged. These units are flexible and can fit any space whether a linear orientation along a corridor or in any of a variety of clusters for different shaped rooms. Some graphics may be on panels for hanging.



## Education Kit

Teachers will have an opportunity to borrow, at no cost, a package of materials for classroom use when they are discussing the Vikings in World History or the early part of Canadian history. Many of the school texts are badly outdated and erroneous in sections such as the Vikings. Teachers and students will now have the opportunity to utilize current exciting and accurate resources.

Resources include:

- 1 Teacher's manual with introductory information, topic outlines, research questions, exercises (such as comparing Viking diets to Canada's nutrition food rules), learning games (such as crossword puzzles), and data cards on various topics.
- 2 Several elaborate books with many illustrations.
- 3 Educational posters, scenic posters and postcards for classroom exhibition.
- 4 Two sets of teaching slides with accompanying manuals:
  - a) Vikings as Outstanding Craftspeople
  - b) Vikings as Traders, Merchants and Colonists
- 5 Replicas of artifacts including jewelry and household items.



## Viking Crafts and Educational Materials

People of Scandinavian descent and other Canadians have had little opportunity to obtain references, replicas of artifacts or games relating to Viking developments. While a few people who have returned to various Scandinavian countries have returned with replicas of Thor's Hammer or trefoil broaches, they have been few in number.

A large number of items are

Continued on page 7

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# IT STARTED WITH TWO

Many years ago in Norway, a young man from the Lofoten Islands travelled to Malm, to work in the iron mines. There he met a young lady, visiting that area. They fell in love, and married at Trondheim in 1911.

Some time later, Otto Johanson travelled to Canada to make his fortune. He worked on farms and homesteads before sending for his wife, Julie. She came to Canada in 1915 with her first son. They lived in New Norway where their first daughter A. Janette, was born. They moved to Bardo, near Tofield. The family increased until there were ten children.

These added and multiplied, twins in the family, increased the Johanson clan. When Julie died, there were 90 heirs. Then when Otto Johanson died, there were near 100 descendants. All these from the original two.

A family reunion was planned in 1985 to be held at the west coast. Because there were no other relatives in Canada, letters were sent inviting relatives to attend from Norway. Mr & Mrs Halvdan Iverson, with their daughter and her husband Mr & Mrs Willie Nilsen came to see Canada, visit their relatives and be present at the reunion.

Family members in the Edmonton area were able to meet the visitors, as the foursome were flown from Vancouver to Edmonton. These people had no conception of the size of Canada; but learned a little more as they travelled back by car for the reunion Aug. 25 & 26th. On this return there was something new and larger at every turn through the Rockies.

Then as the clan gathered for a banquet at a Community Hall, there were 93, present. Unfortunately several dozen were unable to attend. The time had come for name tags to be attached, for many had never met.



First family of the Johansons with their spouses (two men missing)

Some had grown up, others married and had children. It was most pleasant to go about the tables, meeting family circles as they gathered for pictures. Entertainment was provided, for the family are all musically or dramatically inclined. Of the original family, except for mother and father, there has only been one death, and just one of the offspring died recently.

The following day, 96 gathered at a picnic ground to enjoy an outing. With Norwegian background, you can imagine the pastries - calories were rampant. Many games and sports were organized, and a great time was had by all.

Late that day, the gathering dispersed, and many families returned to their homes. Some

members were flabbergasted, other more confused than before, but to see so many people gathered, all related to the original two, was near unbelievable.

As for the visitors from Norway, the program did not stop, for a four-car convoy travelled to Vancouver Island. The couples were awed at Butchart Gardens. This display by itself - the colour, beauty and expansive gardens - was just too much. They had prided themselves that Norway was a blaze of beauty when they left, but at every turn in Victoria, they were met with something drastically new and different.

On returning to Vancouver, they were asked what they would say of Canada if enquiries were made of

their visit? They replied that they would say nothing other than that those making the enquiry should go see for themselves. They wouldn't believe even a part of the story they might tell of the things they had seen on their visit. There was one climactic thrill after another. Each surpassing the last. The gathering of the families was the greatest thrill for members, as well as visitors. It was a wonderful experience to have so many relatives gathered at one time in one place, FOR THE FIRST TIME.

A function of this nature starts the adrenalin flowing in a quest to search out the family tree, and learn more of what is meant of family ties, the origin and where we fit into the picture.

## RACING THROUGH SUMMER


By Bob Burt


Norwegian runners have not stopped competing yet. This past summer several racing events drew local runners in Edmonton. One sponsored by C.P. Air, a relay race from Jasper to Banff of over 170 miles, was entered by over 120 teams of 17 members each. The Nordic Ski Club entered a mixed team including Kaare Askildt and Coco Barnett-Askildt, Ron Nichol and others including a late entry, Hans Eysel, who flew in from West Germany and ran his distance the same day. This team placed 50th, an excellent showing, for there were entries from Japan, USA, Bahamas, Germany and Peru, naming only a few of the outside teams.

A local Oldtimers group, the Chasquis Running Club entered a team, which included Jim Muldowney (one of our boys). The team placed 17th overall, and first in the Oldtimers category. The team won a trip to Skagway, Alaska, compliments of C.P. Air. They will run in a similar race Sept. 19 & 20th from Skagway to Whitehorse, a distance of 110 miles. Congratulations are in order for both these teams and their valiant efforts.

Another spectacular event held August 18th was the Carling O'Keefe "Triathlon", a race which started off at the Edmonton Coronation Swimming pool. There were over 170 entries, one of which was our own Ron Nichol. The events included swimming 20 lengths of the Coronation swimming pool; a 38 kilometer bicycle race; and a 7 kilometer foot-race finishing at the Coronation pool. Ron, being in fair shape for the event, placed 56th, a commendable position for such a grueling contest.


These kind of events keep the boys in shape for the coming winter sports of skiing, curling and bowling, and the Winter Games next year.






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# DANISH CANADIAN FRIENDSHIP CLUB

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

For nine years the Scandinavian Centre had organized Scandinavian participation in the Heritage Days Festival in Hawrelak Park. When the Centre two years ago was no longer able to perform this task, the Scandinavian Heritage Group was organized by Bent Skousbol to carry on the work. In November last year the group was registered as a non-profit society under the name of the Scandinavian Heritage Society of Edmonton, and this was the second year that the Scandinavian participation was organized by them.

All five Nordic countries are members of the Scandinavian Heritage Society and the success of the pavilion testifies to excellent cooperation among the member groups; in particular, Bent Skousbol deserves praise for getting the group organized.

This was the second year the Danish Canadian Friendship Club participated. The Club made an excellent contribution and special thanks go to Birthe Krogh and her helpers in the pastry tent, and to Birgit Wildenhoff, Lissie Jensen, Tove Hansen and Susanne Balslov for their fine artistic displays. **Well done!**

\*\*\*\*\*

**SECOND ANNUAL MEETING**  
Monday, October 7th, 1985  
7:30 p.m. at Ansgar Lutheran Church  
9554 - 108A Ave., Edmonton

A Club's annual meeting is perhaps its most important event. We urge you to come down and set your mark on the club. Meet former and new board members and meet your fellow members. There are several positions open and therefore a real chance to be involved. See you in the basement of the Danish Church.

\*\*\*\*\*

## TENTATIVE CALENDAR 1985/86

**October 7:**  
Annual Meeting

**October 26:**  
Leif Erikson Banquet

**December 1:**  
Christmas Party

**January:**  
Ansgar Villa Event

**May:**  
Fort Edmonton Social

**June:**  
Country Rally

\*\*\*\*\*

## LESSONS IN DANISH

Agnes Jeloff Jensen starts two classes at Bonnie Doon High School.

**BEGINNERS** start Thursday, Sept. 26 at 7 p.m.

**2ND YEAR** start Tuesday, Sept. 24 at 7 p.m.

Registration: Edmonton Continuing Education 426-3280

Information: Agnes Jelhoff Jensen 466-9478

\*\*\*\*\*

## YOUR DANISH CONNECTION

Our television program "Your Danish Connection" is back. First show is set for Saturday, September 28th at 7:30 p.m. on Ch. 10 on cable.

## LEIF ERICSSON BANQUET

The Danish Canadian Friendship Club and the Sons of Norway are jointly sponsoring a "Leif Ericsson Banquet" on **October 26th, 1985 at The Royal Viking Restaurant, 10123 -112 Street.**

**6:00 P.M.** Cocktails

**7:00 P.M.** Dinner, followed by entertainment and dance.

**Tickets:** \$17.00 per person

**Call:** Helen Nielsen 466-2551  
Kai Lynge 436-2085

We are very pleased with this arrangement and we thank the Sons of Norway for suggesting this venture. We are sure the true Viking spirit will come alive October 26th at the Royal Viking. Let Edmonton beware: the Vikings are out! Tickets are sold on a first come first served basis and are not divided between the clubs. So call now - you Vikings!

There is little known about Leif Ericsson. Leif was born in Iceland and his adventures are recorded in a number of Old Norse sagas. He was the son of Eric the Red, and in 999 A.D. he went to the court of King Olaf Tryggvason in Norway. He was converted to Christianity and next year King Olaf sent him to Greenland to spread the Christian religion.

According to the *Saga of Erik the Red*, Ericsson encountered a severe storm on the trip and was blown off course into a strange land west of Greenland. He called this new land Vinland because of its abundance of grapes. He later went to Greenland, where he told of his voyage and introduced the Christian faith.

In 1963 the first definite archaeological evidence of a Norse settlement was found at L'Anse aux Meadows in Newfoundland. This may well be the site of Leif Ericsson's settlement.

## REPORT ON THE CONFERENCE IN NEW DENMARK

On June 14-16 I had the privilege of attending the fourth national conference of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada as the delegate for the club. The conference was held in New Denmark, New Brunswick, this year and a more hospitable community would be difficult to find. I was met at the airport in Fredericton on the 13th June by Pastor Douglas Moore who drove me and two delegates from Winnipeg to New Denmark. On the way, Pastor Moore talked about his experiences as minister to a congregation still largely Danish in so many aspects. He took us down Klokke Hill, showed us where the original 29 Danish settlers landed on June 19, 1872, and then took us to the Valhalla restaurant where we had a real Danish dinner.

The following three days were a

constant reminder of how New Denmark has been able to preserve its heritage in the form of Danish customs and language. I met people of the fourth and fifth generation who still had a good command of Danish. Danish names were everywhere on the mail boxes. Even the weather and the landscape co-operated: both were typical of a summer day in Denmark.

Saturday night we were treated to a great meal cooked by women in New Denmark, to singing in Danish, to folk dances by young people and to truly good fellowship.

With so much around us to remind us of our cultural heritage, the theme of the conference was most appropriate: "How to Preserve and Document Our History". Two excellent speakers; Professor Keil Antoff, Dalhousie University, Halifax, and Dr. Edward Laine, Public Archives

of Canada, presented papers and afterwards led a lively discussion on the theme. As a newcomer to the meetings of the Federation, it was interesting to meet the delegates from the clubs across Canada. More than 60 people representing 25 clubs from Halifax to Vancouver participated. The group from Kingston, together with members from Toronto and Ottawa, had hired a bus for their trip. In their smart red and white outfits, the Kingston people were really eye-catching.

Gunnar Kristensen, President of Skandinavisk Canadisk Ven-skabsforening, was there with an invitation to ALL MEMBERS of the Danish Canadian Clubs across Canada to attend the sixth conference of the Federation in Kolding, Denmark, in 1987.

Next year's conference will be held in Toronto and at Sunset Villa, Puslinch, in connection with Grundlovsdagen. The theme will be "Youth" and to make it as successful as this year's in New Denmark and in order to strengthen the Federation, it is important that each club sends as many members as possible.

Birgit Langhammer  
Secretary



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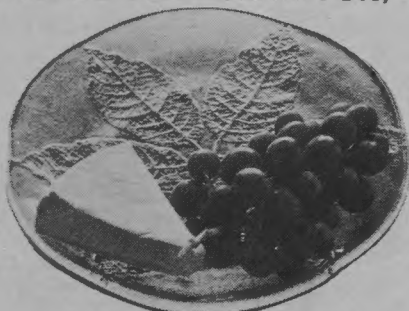


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**STANLEY HAFSO**



# MUSEUM

Continued from page 4

being assembled for sale to the public and for sale by various museums, Scandinavian centres and interested businesses. The availability of these items will increase general awareness of Viking heritage as jewelry, reference books, posters and games appear in homes and are distributed as gifts. Items include:

- 1 Jewelry replicas: variety of quality items including Thor's Hammer, trefoil broaches, Sleipnir pattern pendants, Pitney broach, Danish armring, crucifix pendant, filigree pendant, charms, earrings and necklaces.
- 2 Cutout models including Viking ships, L'Anse aux Meadows settlement, and Sutton Hoo helmet.
- 3 Viking ship models in plastic and wood.
- 4 Wooden Viking swords for children.
- 5 Postcards, posters and slides.
- 6 Viking game, Hnefatafi, and Viking Advent calendar.
- 7 Variety of books, particularly well-written and well-illustrated examples.

## Resources Required

Work has already started on various parts of the Viking Exhibit. Curatorial and Design input is already underway. The text for the teacher's manual and a variety of original line drawings are being completed. The Museum of Man and Nature has committed curatorial, design and production staff time, materials, supplies and graphics. However, in order to complete all phases to the degree that we would like in

order to properly portray the Viking heritage, additional funds are required.

## Areas Identified for Funding Assistance

a Exhibit	Cdn. \$
Audio-Visual unit (carousel, self contained screen, and automatic mechanism)	2,000
Photographic enlargements	1,000
Replicas	1,200
Exhibit structures	4,000
Travel preparation (crating, etc.)	1,700
b Education Kits (2)	
Replicas	800
Reference materials	200
Manuals (English, French)	500
Cases	500
c Other	
1. Education Posters	
a) Vikings as Settlers, Traders & Colonizers	2,200
b) Vikings as Outstanding Craftspeople	2,200
2. Viking film rental (BBC)	550
3. Speaker Travel Funds	2,000

# ...AND FROM DENMARK

The Danes steal, rob and swindle like never before.

Crimes against other people's possessions increased by 10% from 1973 to 1984, and criminal activity involving violence increased by 2% in the same period.

The increase, however, is not larger than could be expected since it is probably caused by the fact that there are more young Danes now than before.

"The increase has been steady throughout the second half of the seventies, and it generally follows the composition of the population", says criminologist Flemming Balvig, University of Copenhagen.

The Stork has had a happy and busy summer in Denmark this year. 12 stork couples have had 34 young storks altogether - almost 3 per couple. This is a record since the stork counts began in Denmark in 1952.

The average number of offspring for a stork couple is 1.5. This year's high number of young storks is probably caused by the fact that the small group of storks which still go to Denmark are reasonably old and experienced. They came to Denmark early in the summer, and were in good condition. They could therefore start their families early in the season.

The Danish queen Margrethe and the Swedish king Carl Gustav were passengers on a plane which recently had to perform an emergency landing in Denmark.

The Swedish air force plane, which brought the royal persons home from a funeral in Luxemburg, had a defective nosewheel. The captain therefore decided to land at a small airport near Roskilde by Copenhagen in stead of - as planned - to take the Danish queen to Aarhus in Jutland.

The landing was perfect, and no one was hurt. Therefore the firetrucks and ambulances which were called to the spot were not used.

A couple of hours after the landing the plane continued to Kalar in Sweden with Swedish passengers while the Danish queen took a ferry to her destination.

The Danes seem to be on their way back into the traditional marriage, and romantic weddings are again becoming common.

In 1984 almost 29000 weddings were performed in Danish churches and city halls. That is 5.6% more than in the previous year.

The number of marriages also increased from 1982 to 1983 by 11%.

Furthermore, the number of divorces decreased in 1984 for the first time since 1979.

The catching of whales off the coast of the Faroe Islands has been attacked by British naturalist groups.

They claim that the Faroe Islanders consider the catching entertainment for the people, that they catch more whales than they need, and that a lot of the whale meat is thrown out every year.

A representative for the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs replies that the pilot whale make up over half of the meat production of the Faroe Islands. At the same time it makes up over one quarter of the area's total meat consumption.

The pilot whale is a small whale which is not considered to be an endangered species.

# FINNISH FOOTNOTES

By Anja Sahuri

The annual Mid-Summer Picnic was held as planned at the Fork Lake Campground during the June 21st to 23rd weekend.

There were about 30 people present and "Kalasoppa" tasted very good. Thanks to all those who helped and of course thanks to Jarmo Vaisanen and Raimo Rasi for the fish they caught just for this purpose. Thank You.

The biggest fish was caught by Pauli Vanhala. Congratulations.

The ladies' dart-throwing contest was won by Maria Leppanen and the men's winner was Raimo Rasi. Congratulations to both of you.

The weekend went by fast - rain didn't hamper the event more than about half an hour, and Saturday evening was complete with dancing on the graveled parking spot - and it didn't seem to matter much whether the ground was smooth or not.

Best wishes to Sirkka Wahlberg (50), Victor Harvonen (60) and Jim VanEs (50) who all celebrated their birthdays recently.

Friends had also arranged surprise birthday parties for Airi Honkanen (50), Pirkko Karvonen (50) and the latest surprise party was held for Helmut Langeeste in honour of his 60th birthday.

Best Wishes to All of You

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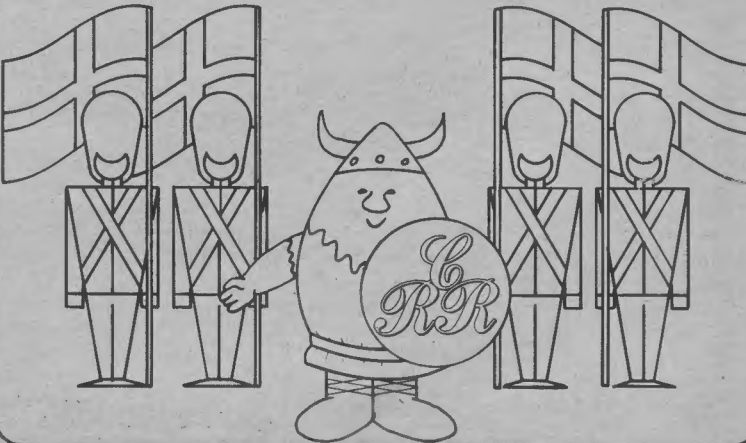
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Scandinavian Folkdancers

## FOLKDANCING SCANDINAVIAN STYLE

By Kris Nyhus

The Valhalla Scandinavian Folkdancers of Edmonton actively practised all summer in preparation for Heritage Days where they staged twelve performances at the Scandinavian Pavilion on August 4th & 5th.

The group can now be proud of their attire, since all the dancers are dressed in authentic Scandinavian Folkdance costumes.

The men's costumes were made under the direction of Louise Johnson with help from local seamstresses and the dancers themselves. The ladies' costumes were purchased in Norway by Bebe Korsvold and Johanne Nilsen, and stem from the Hordaland district.

The dance group performed at the Heritage Festival in Camrose com-

memorating the 75th anniversary of Camrose Lutheran College on September 21st, and will entertain at the Oktoberfest hosted by Normanna Lodge No. 595 in Millet on October 12th.

The dancers will attend a Scandinavian Dance Workshop in Red Deer October 18th to 20th; the instructor will be Gordon Tracie from Seattle, who is a widely recognized authority on Scandinavian folkdance.

If you are interested in joining our dance group, please drop in at MacKay House (104 Street and 99 Avenue) at 7:30 on Thursday evenings and try it out.

For further information about the folkdancers call Helge Welling at 434-9891, Louise Johnson at 483-8232, or Kris Nyhus at 487-1450.

## HERITAGE DAYS IN EDMONTON

By Bob Burt

Did you ever see such a sight in your life - as that field of tents and the colours? There were over 43 nations represented at Hawrelak Park August 4th & 5th, each showing off national dishes, costumes and cultural displays representing their homeland.

The Scandinavian Pavilion consisted of two huge tents, as well as the Viking ship borrowed from the Camrose Lutheran College. The Scandinavian Folk Dance troupe and Icelandic choir groups added colour and dash to the days' activities. One of the tents contained displays from each of the Scandinavian Countries; Norway, Sweden, Iceland, Finland and Denmark. Displays and demonstration of pillow lace and potting were further drawing cards.

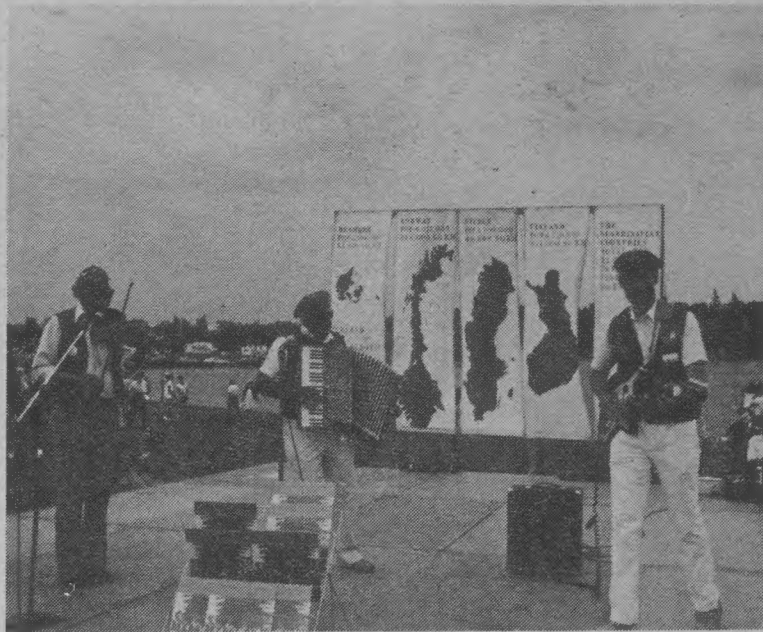
There was a steady queue and people patiently waited in line to go through and see the many and varied displays. Folk dancing was displayed with great dexterity, and those wild Vikings sailed in a Viking ship, portraying their sailing skills.

Sons of Norway had an elaborate display of bunad dolls, Hardanger needlework, arts and crafts, pins and

a cultural display explained by Astrid Hope, A. Janette Burt and Ken Domier. The Swedish, Finish, Icelandic and Danish displays were all extremely interesting, drawing much comment. This year various countries were provided with their National pins for sale and display, a further attraction.

The food tent had to be replenished continuously with Danish pastries -lefse, coffee and soft drinks. Each of

the Scandinavian countries took their turn at the busy food tent where Keith Lillevolden was one of the busiest, seeing that the food was made ready for sale. It would be extremely difficult to give credit to everyone who worked over the two days, but it was satisfying to see the smiling faces of the satisfied customers. Thanks to each member for the part they played in this most successful Heritage Day production.



ABOVE RIGHT: The Freeloaders perform - Harry Huser, Del Melsness and Gary Johnson.

BELOW: Vikings aboard the Camrose viking ship.



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# LOOKING FOR ADVENTURE



By Anja Sahuri

This adventure in Canada's North West Territories had been planned for some time by four young Finnish outdoorsmen.

Having made numerous treks into the Scandinavian northland, and especially to Finland's Lapland, and loving fishing and photography, the foursome decided to move into the more secluded regions of Canada's vast north.

So, at the beginning of July, Seppo Hurttila, Pekka Raita, Alpo Nurmi and Jouko Pesonen, all from Pori, took a flight to Edmonton, continued by rented car to Yellowknife, and from there by chartered plane to far away MacKay Lake in the middle of nowhere.

The first "big trouble", as the boys would have said, began when after a day of fishing and enjoying the surrounding area, they discovered that the pilot had left them at the shore of a different bay than planned. But luckily, later on, they were able to phone him from an isolated fishing lodge and rearrange for the new pick up point. (But would he come to the right place this time?)

After that incident the three-week back-packing trip was enjoyed by everyone. Fishing was fantastic and there were times when they actually didn't want to catch any more fish and therefore had had to refrain from casting.

And of course any trip to the wilderness has to have a bear experience; it happened one day when they sat down for a rest. Suddenly a brown bear appeared behind them, but became frightened and took off as fast as possible the opposite way. What a relief!!!

Another "big trouble" during the trip were the huge northern mosquitoes and hungry black flies which were a constant nuisance and companion to them throughout the journey.

But all in all the adventure-loving northern travellers had a good hiking holiday and they all said that they really enjoyed experiences that they encountered while here. The trip ended in Edmonton where they were guests of the Sahuri family and had an opportunity to meet a few other Finnish Edmontonians. After a couple of days of sightseeing and souvenir hunting it was time to head back home with many memories from Canada. They all wish to send greetings from Finland, and especially from Pori, to all readers.

Northern adventurers from Pori. From left to right, standing: Pekka Raita; Tim Sahuri, Alpo Nurmi, Jouko Pesonen, John Sahuri, Seppo Hurttila; Kneeling are Donna and Dick Sahuri.

# THE ALBERTA TRILOGY

By Cora Sandel

Cora Sandel, born Sara Fabricius in 1880, did not publish her first novel until 1926. *Alberta and Jacob*, first novel of the trilogy, is the story of an adolescent girl's rebellion against the self-conscious gentility of her family in the far north of Norway during the last years of the nineteenth century. Imaginative and intelligent, Alberta Selmer longs for the knowledge and self-fulfillment that her provincial surroundings cannot give her. against the cold, barren backdrop of arctic Norway, Alberta's awareness of herself and the world beyond her family and home emerge like the strange, constant daylight of the Nordic summer.

*Alberta and Freedom*, published in 1931, details Alberta's life in Paris as an impoverished, struggling writer. Her parents have died and, having escaped her stifling life at home, she faces new conflicts as a woman: between loyalty to woman friends and demanding male lovers, between her own timidity and ambition. The novel concludes with Alberta's acceptance of a permanent relationship with Silvert, the father of her unborn child.

The concluding novel, *Alberta Alone*, was published in 1939. As a mother, Alberta is torn between com-

mitments to her son and husband and to her unfulfilled yearning for a purposeful, creative life. An affair with a man sensitive to her creative impulse persuades her that she abandon her marriage and return to Norway to pursue an autonomous existence. As the trilogy concludes, Alberta has determined to renew her writing career both for her own fulfillment and as a means of independence for herself and her son.

Cora Sandel's trilogy creates an authentic female point of view. Through her focus on Alberta's emotional, sexual, and creative development, Sandel creates a unique portrait of a woman's search for identity and fulfillment.

The trilogy is translated by Elizabeth Rokkan. Solveig Nelling has written an introduction and the afterword is by Linda Hunt.

(Each of these books is available from Ohio University Press, Swallow Press, Scott Quadrangle, Athens, Ohio 45701. Price for each book: Cloth \$15.95, Paper \$7.95)



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## CONFERENCE INCLUDES FINS



Finnish Suzuki students from Oulu with two parents

The Seventh Suzuki International Conference was held in Edmonton from Aug. 17 to 21.

The Suzuki Conference involved some 1650 music students, their teachers and parents from around the world.

From Finland came a group of seventeen people from Oulu with music teacher Seija Aho and her journalist husband Esko, some parents

and a group of happy students with a lone boy, Mika Naukkarinen who was well looked after during the trip.

The executive of The Finnish Society had the pleasure of meeting the group during a rare free evening here, and some even had the pleasure of hearing them play at the Auditorium. Also the girls sang Happy Birthday in Finnish to Arvo Ruuth whose birthday fell on the same day as their visit.



## ON THE NORWEGIAN PLATE

Aase Stromstad:

"It is important that dishes of a national character are not completely overshadowed by pizza, hotdogs and hamburgers; some foods are part of our cultural heritage."

### ROAST VEAL

Kalvestek

From time immemorial, roast veal has been synonymous with festivity in Norway. It should always be well roasted and is usually served with cream gravy. Allow 250 g/½ lb. meat with bone per person.

### Ingredients

2 kg/4½ lb. veal roast, from the leg  
1 tablespoon salt  
2 teaspoons finely crushed sage

### Sauce

5 tablespoons butter  
8 tablespoons flour  
1 litre/1 qt. veal stock and roast drippings  
2½ dl/1 scant cup/1 cup of heavy cream  
Salt  
Pepper

Oven temperature: 150°C/300°F

Meat thermometer temperature: 72-75°C/160-165°F

Roasting time: approx. 3 hours

Bone the roast so it will be easier to slice for serving. Boil stock from the bone.

Rub the meat with salt and sage and tie it with cotton string into a nicely shaped roast.

Put the roast on a rack over the roasting pan. Insert a meat thermometer into the thickest part of the meat and roast until the thermometer reaches the temperature given above—approx. 3 hours.

For the gravy, brown butter and flour together to the colour of milk chocolate. Add the strained stock and drippings. Boil gravy at least 10 minutes. Add cream. Bring to boil and season to taste with salt and pepper.

Serve roast veal sliced thin, with braised small onions, boiled vegetables and potatoes.

(From "Eat the Norway" by Aase Stromstad. The book is published by Aschehoug Publishing Company, Sehestedsgt. 3, N - 0164 OSLO 1)

## LEIF ERIKSON DAY CELEBRATION

By Kris Nyhus

The Leif Erikson Day Celebration will be co-sponsored this year by the Danish Canadian Friendship Club and Sons of Norway. The host for the function this year is Sons of Norway.

A banquet will be held at the Royal Viking — 10123 - 112 Street.

Cocktails will be served from 6 to 7 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m. The dinner will be a 'viking dinner', consisting of a total of eleven different courses; Jens and Tom have promised to have it served 'the old viking way'. Wine will be served from the grapes of Vinland, and akvavit is also on the menu for Viking descendants.

The Sons of Norway Sewing Club is in charge of decorations and entertainment.

The program is still in the planning stages, and it can only be said at this time that it is centered around the Viking era from about the year 1,000 A.D. A special song has been composed in honour of the occasion.

There will also be dancing in the lounge and plenty of time to socialize.

The price is \$17.50 per person, and all tickets MUST BE PRE-PURCHASED. Please get yours early since there will be a limited number.

Parking is available free of charge at the parking lot directly across the street from the Royal Viking.

The Danish Canadian Friendship Club will host the Leif Erikson Celebration next year; we know that this joint venture will be mutually beneficial.

To order tickets please call Selma Sorenson, the ticket chairperson, at home at 425-8261, or at the office at 428-0441.

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### 4 ) Animal Specimens

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Tours last approximately 45 minutes and are free of charge. Groups should be limited in size to 30 people.

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DANISH lessons will be starting again this fall at BONNIE DOON HIGH SCHOOL.

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Second-year students start Tuesday, September 24 at 7 p.m.

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BEGINNING NORWEGIAN classes are again being offered through the Edmonton Public School Board Continuing Education Department. Instructors are Hjordis and Stein Jahnsen from the Nordic Society.

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## OCTOBER 9th CHOSEN



The significance of October 9th to Scandinavians in North America is that this is the date in 1825 when the first organized shipload of immigrants from Norway landed in New York City aboard the sloop "Restauration".

Since no exact date can be established for the Viking landings on the North American continent around the year 1,000 as described in Icelandic and Norwegian Sagas, October 9th was chosen as the day to honour the Viking explorer, Leif Erikson, and the Scandinavians who followed and settled in the United States and Canada.

## THE ORIGIN OF "VASA"

By Verna Larson, Cultural Leader  
Vasa Lodge Skandia

In previous reports we have outlined the achievements of King Gustav Vasa, and because of his generosity, integrity, and his efforts to unify Sweden, it was fitting that the organizers of the Vasa Order of America should choose his name for their new Order.

Now going back, we quite naturally ask: Where did the name Vasa originate? The Vasa dynasty derives its name from the old Swedish word 'vase', meaning sadeskarve, or sheaf

of cereal grass, which was the insignia or emblem on the Coat of Arms of Vasaatten, the Vasa Dynasty.

The first known member of this dynasty was Nils Kettilson, district Judge in Frotuna community in Stockholm, in the year 1365. His son, Kristiern Nilsson Vase, mentioned in historical documents around 1396, was the great-grandfather of Gustav Vasa, who was born in 1496 and became king in the year 1523. Somewhere the 'e' was dropped and replaced by an 'a', thus becoming 'Vasa'.

## FROM THE SCANDINAVIAN DEPARTMENT, U of A

To date, approximately 65 students are enrolled in five courses in Scandinavian Studies at the U of A. Language courses continue to be offered on three levels as well as a course in Old Norse Sagas and Mythology. In addition, the department is offering a course in Special Studies, conducted in Norwegian and featuring readings in Scandinavian literature.

Dr. Chris Hale has postponed, for the time being, the sabbatical leave planned for this year. He did however, spend seven and a half

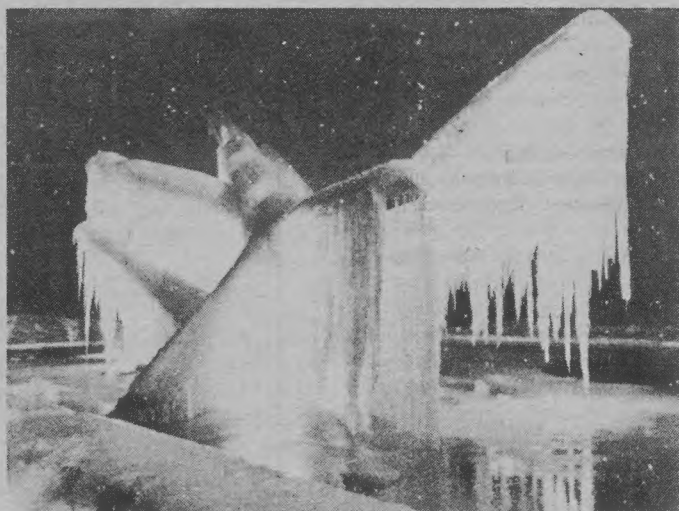
weeks in Denmark and Norway this summer, furthering his research on Norwegian author Aksel Sandemose. During this time, he presented a paper in Norwegian on the topic "Fiction and Reality in Sandemose's Canadian Experiences", in Nykobing, Mors, Denmark.

**NOTE:** A lecture in English by Norwegian poetess Karin Moe will be presented at the university on an evening between October 28 and 30. If you are interested in attending this lecture, contact Dr. Chris Hale, U of A, at 432-4141 for further details.

## THE MASTERPIECE

The Butler Ice Fountain, designed to be "something of permanent beauty that would be unique to Buffalo State College," is a gift of the Butler Foundation and Kate Butler Wallis, Chairman of the College Council from 1959 to 1980 and the third generation of the Butler family to take a leading part in fostering and enriching the intellectual and physical environment of the college.

The abstract sculpture by Norwegian artist Carl Nesjar, 20 feet at its highest point, 40 feet in length, and approximately 15 feet wide, lifts nine steel arms above a shallow reflecting pool in front of the Edward H. Butler Library named for Mrs. Wallis's grandfather. Eight nozzles on the arms create fan-shaped sprays. Twenty-five jets grouped at the front of the basin produce vertical streams of water, and two at the rear spurt horizontally. At night the fountain is illuminated by lights in the pool and on the library roof.



Devised by its creator to be even more spectacular in winter than it is in other seasons, the fountain's sprays freeze into fantastic icicles and ice masses that change daily with

the highs and lows of the thermometer. Explains Carl Nesjar, "It's more exciting in winter because it can change radically from morning to afternoon."



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## TORSKE KLUBBEN FALL MEETING

Members of the Torske Klubben held their first annual Fall meeting this year Sept. 10th at the Saxony Inn with a family night; over 70 members and guests were in attendance. The scheduled speakers, the Edmonton Eskimos, were unable to attend due to a previous social engagement. In their place a film on "Down Hill Mountain Skiing in the Bugaboos" was shown. The film was well received, but there was a decided disappointment to many of the young people that the football players were not present.

The black cod was excellent as usual, in fact the complete meal was very satisfying. The hospitality and friendliness of members is in good form, as they returned for another year with their favorite gathering.

Ken Domier, speaking for President Kris Nyhus of Sons of Norway, made several announcements. The first meeting this Fall of Sons of Norway was held Sept. 20th: films were shown of "Your Trip to Norway", a collection of pictures of Norway compiled by the Minneapolis Resource

Group. It was further announced that Camrose Lutheran College was to celebrate their 75th Anniversary with a Heritage Festival Smorgasbord Sept. 21st, and that the Scandinavian Folk Dancers were performing at this function. This group also took part in the third Phase of West Edmonton Mall opening, Sept. 10th.

The Red Deer Folk Dancers will sponsor a Scandinavian Folk Dance Work Shop at Red Deer Oct. 19 & 20th. The instructor to be in attendance is Brian Tracie of Seattle, Washington. This is a growing additional feature in Scandinavian culture, and is becoming increasingly popular and colorful.

This year Lief Erikson Night will be held Oct. 26th at the Royal Viking, on 112 Street off Jasper Avenue. This is the social function of the year and should not be missed.

Getting back to Torske Klubben - the next meeting will be held the first Tuesday in Oct. (the first). The finalization meeting, to appoint a Boss for Torske Klubben 1986 will be held prior to the November meeting.

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# NEXT DEADLINE NOVEMBER 8, '85



# JEWELRY '85

Director: Jan Lauritz Opstad

Jewelry '85 is the first large exhibition in Scandinavia which presents the newest trends in international jewelry. Nordenfjeldske Kunstinindustrimuseum - The Museum of Applied Art - is the only museum in Scandinavia, specializing in international and contemporary craft and design. The museum has during the last years established an important collection of contemporary international jewelry, which comprises a considerable part of the exhibition Jewelry '85.

The main part of the collection, however, consists of new works by Scandinavia's leading jewelers of the younger generation. Most of the participants are Norwegians. This is not only due to the fact that the Nordenfjeldske Museum of Applied Art is situated in Norway, but also that the

Norwegian jewelers seem to be the most interesting in Scandinavia at the moment, according to Director Jan Lauritz Opstad of the museum. "The old rings and brooches with gold, silver and diamonds are jewelry of the past. The new jewelry will be of ebony, titanium, plexiglass and silver, niobium or steel, gold or plastic," says Mr Opstad. "Today, we witness a reevaluation of the basic values in jewelry art. Jewelry is more than precious metals and stones. Today the idea and expression constitute the basis for evaluation. Jewelry is no longer a naked ring or brooch. The body is incorporated, and a piece of jewelry may be made for the whole body. The expression 'wearable art' has been born," adds an enthusiastic Jan L. Opstad.

In 1985 we may look back at five

very exciting years, but a very few exhibitions stand out in the crowd:

"Alternative Materials in American Jewelry: Good as Gold" in Renwick Gallery, Washington D.C., 1981.

"Jewelry Redefined," the British Craft Centre, 1982.

"The Jewelry Project," Crafts Council of Great Britain, 1983.

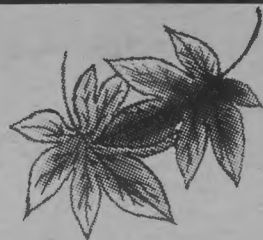
"New Departures in British Jewelry," the American Craft Museum, New York, 1983.

"Jewelry International" or "Jewelry U.S.A.," the American Craft Museum, 1984.

"Contemporary Jewelry," the National Museum of Art Tokyo & Kyoto, 1984.

And: Jewelry '85, Nordenfjeldske Kunstinindustrimuseum, Trondheim, February 9 - March 3, 1985.

## VASA LODGE SKANDIA NEWS



By Kaye Kerr

Camp Week - July 21st to 28th - was a huge success at Vasa Park.

Dorothy and Gordon Johnson headed the committee for organizing the camp. They were assisted by Joan Petersson - Cultural (Swedish dancing and sons); Helen McEvoy - Crafts; Alice Sorenson - Meals; and Erling Winquist whose assistance made the week run smoothly. Counsellors were Trevor Nyroos and Trevor Molin. Twenty-eight children attended the camp. Each instructor had an assistant, and Alice Sorensen was grateful for the ladies who helped her in the kitchen.

On the last day a very enjoyable program was presented by the children for parents and friends.

Thank you, Dorothy and Gordon, and all your assistants, for your efforts which made the camp such a success.

\*\*\*\*\*

Congratulations to Christina Nyroos on receiving a \$500.00 District Scholarship.

\*\*\*\*\*

Sandra Petersson is taking her third year Arts at the University in Linköping, Sweden.

\*\*\*\*\*

Thank you ladies for the successful Pie and Coffee Social held at Vasa Park. The pie was delicious and tasted like "MORE".

\*\*\*\*\*

## BJØRNSTJERNE BJØRNSON

Bjornstjerne Bjornson was born on December 8, 1832, at Bjorgan Vigarage in Kvikne, a small mountain district in eastern Norway. Both on his father's and mother's side was descended from ancient Norwegian yeoman stock, and he naturally came to regard his home as the focus of his life. Love of parents and brothers and sisters, a feeling of family and tradition, were not only fundamental features of his character, but were also to provide him with the dominant motifs of his writing and his life's work.

In 1856 young Bjornson abruptly terminated his studies and devoted himself in earnest to literature. The following year saw the publication of *Synnove Solbakken*, a small book with a style and psychology so distinctly Norwegian that it was considered a breakthrough in the national literature of the time. During the 10 to 15 years that followed Bjornson wrote most of the peasant tales which will stand for all time as his most outstanding achievement as a prose writer: *Arne, A Happy Boy, The Fisher Maiden*, etc. Poems that Bjornson inserted in his stories spread to every corner of the land and became household words as the songs of no other poet before him had.

Of Bjornson's other prose works some were the work of a born storyteller, delighting in the tale he had told; others were part and parcel of the ideological campaign Bjornson conducted at the same time, both in his plays dealing with contemporary society and in his lectures. With Spencer, Ingersoll, Waite and others as his point of departure, Bjornson dealt with such problems as the education of young girls (*The Heritage of the Kurts*) and religious freedom (*In God's Way*). In these as in all his other works Bjornson's sound and optimistic philosophy of life predominated: The weak attain strength, love conquers hatred, tolerance overcomes prejudice.

At the start of his dramatic career Bjornson, like Henrik Ibsen, was by turns a theatre manager and a writer of historical dramas. He was an actor, a manager and a producer of considerable and genuine talent, and during the 1850s and 1860s he played a prominent part in the campaign to create a separate Norwegian theatre and to bring to a close the Danish influence that had predominated on the stage in Norway. As director of the Christiania Theatre he gathered together and trained as a team a troupe of actors who performed, among others, the plays of Shakespeare and Alfred de Musset and subsequently works of Ibsen and Bjornsen as well. The Bjornsen tradition endured for many years in the theatre, and was continued by his son, *Bjorn Bjornson*, who in time became the first director of the National Theatre in Oslo. Bjornson's talents as a "man of the theatre" were markedly in evidence in the

historical dramas of his early years — *Mary Queen of Scots, Sigurd Jorsalfar* — plays which proved exceedingly effective on the stage. But it was not until Bjornson tackled the modern social drama (*The Newly-Married Couple, 1865, The Bankrupt, 1875*) that his powers reached full fruition. With *The Bankrupt* he won a European reputation, and several dramas followed. The two plays which critics came to regard as the most central in his entire production were *Beyond Our Strength*, about Christian beliefs and miracles, and *Paul Lange and Thora Parsberg*, dealing with the fate of a talented and shrewd, but sensitive and weak individual.

Bjornson had started his writing career as a journalist, and throughout his life he continued to write in newspapers and periodicals, touching on a great many subjects — theatrical criticism, literary essays, travel descriptions — though the bulk of his journalistic writings was dedicated to politics. He dealt with every shade and aspect of politics, from the purely local intrigue, which he would disentangle, to his attacks in the world press on the policy of the great powers. From the free viewpoint of a writer he spoke out with great enthusiasm and talent.

As a political guide Bjornson made his greatest contribution during Norway's protracted struggle for complete sovereignty from Sweden. Bjornson was no politician either by disposition or inclination; he was rather a standard-bearer, a bugler rallying his countrymen. He devised their strategy and coined their battle slogans; he was not a tactician, looking as he did beyond the politics of every day. For this reason he often encountered violent opposition, but he knew more than anyone before him how to enlist youth on his side. From the ranks of the children who walked in procession on Constitution Day every May 17, Norway's national day — a procession which Bjornson himself inaugurated in 1871, and which today is inseparably associated with the celebration of this day — to the young men and women of Norway, youth rallied around Bjornson in increasing numbers. They sang his songs (among which was the national anthem), they understood his language, and in time many of them became standard-bearers, championing Bjornson's own ideas. "In my work I want to create a new and better Norway," Bjornson once wrote, and he lived to see the land he loved obtain complete sovereignty on June 7, 1905.

Bjornson had started life within the sphere of the peasant and the saga, but gradually he developed into a European liberal and idealist. He enjoyed living abroad, and often stayed in Copenhagen and Munich, in Rome and in Paris. He only visited England when he passed through on his way

to America. But it was natural for Bjornson to say: "I never leave home, however far I travel. I can easily be in Norway when I am sitting in a room in Rome". And yet it would have been difficult for him, had he not descended as he was from a generation of farmers, had his own farm, in the very heart of Norway (from 1875, the farm of Aulestad in Gausdal) and had he not been married to *Karoline Reimers Bjornson*, another solid character.

Bjornson, who loved to be loved, would willingly jeopardize his popularity, provided a cause dear to his heart achieved success. During a visit to America in 1880-81, for example, he could easily have earned a great deal of money — money which he sorely needed — and enhanced his reputation, if he had had been willing to confine his activities to lecturing on neutral subjects and to readings of his stories. But in the course of his tour Bjornson championed the cause of religious freedom from dogma. This was a liberation which he had achieved for himself, and when he left the United States he was considered a controversial figure.

During the last 10 years of his life Bjornson was intensely preoccupied with pacifist ideas. He abhorred militarism in every form and took active part in the work to promote peace — in the Dreyfus case, in the struggle of the people of South Jutland against Prussian oppression. From 1907 he launched an attack on the oppression of national minorities by the great nations in a series of articles published in the world's press. He had the satisfaction of seeing his attacks strike home where he intended, and thousands of letters of thanks poured in to Aulestad, written by Ukrainians, Finns, Romanians, Croats, Slovenes, Czechs and Slovaks.

Bjornson died in Paris on April 26, 1910.



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